

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
EVELYN SANGUINETTI – LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

11:00AM

16th Floor, Room 504

James R. Thompson Center

100 W Randolph St

Chicago, IL 60601

And supplemental location via videoconferencing

Lieutenant Governor's Springfield Office

Room 214

Illinois Capitol Building

Springfield, Illinois 62707

Name	Title	Organization	Present
Evelyn Sanguinetti	Lt. Governor	State of Illinois	Yes
Tom Demmer	Representative	90 th District	Yes
Mark Batinick	Representative	97 th District	No
Jack Franks	Representative	63 rd District	Phone
Emmanuel Chris Welch	Representative	7 th District	No
Dan Duffy	Senator	26 th District	Phone
Dale Righter	Senator	55 th District	No
Martin A. Sandoval	Senator	12 th District	No
Linda Holmes	Senator	42 nd District	Yes
Karen Darch	Mayor	Barrington	Yes
Karen Hasara	Former Mayor	Springfield	Yes*
Brad Cole	Executive Director	Illinois Municipal League	No
Ryan Spain	City Council Member	Peoria	No
Dan Cronin	Chairman	DuPage County	No
Michael Bigger	Former Chairman	Stark County	Yes
Mark Kern	Chairman	St. Clair County	No
John Espinoza	Board Member	Whiteside County	No
Dr. Darlene Ruscitti	Regional Superintendent	DuPage Schools	Phone
Steffanie Seegmiller	Chairman	Arthur School Board	Phone
M. Hill Hammock	Senior Fellow	Metropolitan Planning Council	No

Char Foss-Eggemann	Trustee	Park Ridge Library Board	Yes
Warren L. Dixon III	Township Assessor	Naperville	Yes
George Obernagle	Chairman	Kaskaskia Regional Port District	Phone
Non-Voting Members			
Clayton Frick		Deloitte Services LLP	Yes
Mr. Aranowski		ISBE	Yes
Mr. Kersey		IDOL	No
Mr. Zigmund		IDOR	No
Mr. Perkins		DCEO	No

*denotes presence at Springfield location

The Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force met for the fifteenth time on December 15th, 2015 with Lieutenant Governor and Chair Evelyn Sanguinetti presiding.

MEETING LOCATION

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MEETING START

Meeting Scheduled Start: 11:00AM
Meeting Actual Start: 11:03AM

AGENDA

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti called the meeting to order at 11:03AM CT and welcomed members.
- b. Roll Call was taken. Quorum was met at this time.

II. Approval of meeting minutes from December 8, 2015

- a. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti opened the minutes from the previous meeting for correction.
- b. Seeing no corrections, Lt. Governor Sanguinetti sought a motion for the approval of the meeting minutes from December 8, 2015.

- i. Dixon moved the motion to approve. Obernagel seconded.
- ii. The motion was approved by majority ayes with no nays recorded

III. Chairman's Remarks – Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti

- a. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti: "Again, welcome to the fifteenth meeting of the Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force. I want to start this meeting by, again, thanking everyone for your active participation over the last year. In February, Governor Rauner signed an executive order to establish our mission. He asked our task force to review state law relating to units of government and unfunded mandates and identify opportunities to deliver more efficient, effective and streamlined services to the residents of Illinois."

IV. Presentations – NIU-CGS, Review of the Task Force Report – Norm Walzer

- a. Norm Walzer discussed the Obstacles to Consolidation and Collaboration section of the final report. He briefly touched on the subtopics of consolidation difficulty due to current state law, lack of citizen empowerment, and cultural and political factors.
- b. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti opened the floor for discussion.
 - i. Dixon thanked Dr. Walzer and noted that there have been prior consolidation task forces, and they addressed how to approach consolidation and streamlining. They recommended to not confront it head-on as enforcers from the state level, but to approach it via small groups and at the local level. He suggested that the Task Force should not just leave the recommendations at the legislative level, but instead take them further, to the local level. He emphasized the need for a "next steps" section of the report.
 - 1. Dr. Walzer agreed and emphasized the Task Force must pay attention to best practices to encourage local people to take action towards these improved efficiencies. He also mentioned the importance of easily accessible information.
 - ii. Dixon agreed and said he thinks formation of local groups would be beneficial to the process.
 - 1. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti noted working groups will be a part of the progression, and that the report will be a living document to facilitate streamlining and local changes.
 - iii. Hasera thanked Dr. Walzer for including Sangamon County to the final version of the report and discussed how DECA was an important resource during their efforts.

- iv. Representative Demmer agreed with the discussion that consolidation should be a locally led initiative. He also observed that people can be resistant to change, and questioned Dr. Walzer about the types of incentives that could be used to spur these changes.
 - 1. Dr. Walzer recommended involving the people through an education process, and advance preparation of the community. He also suggested a competitive reimbursement program from the state to aid innovation.
- v. Darch said educating the public is critical and outreach to encourage public education innovation will aid the process.
- c. Dr. Walzer acknowledged Andy Blanke and a few others at NIU-CGS for their hard work and efforts towards this report.

V. New Business – Discussion on Task Force Report

- i. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti began discussion on the Task Force Report and introduced Brian Costin to discuss the remaining steps left before the report is completed and sent to the Governor and General Assembly.
- ii. Costin stated Task Force members have received an updated version of the report, and the report will reflect a few additional updates in advance of the final vote.
- iii. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti opened the floor to Task Force members for discussion on the final report.
 - 1. The Lt. Governor's Chief of Staff Brian Colgan brought up Dixon's recommendation to include the 'Next Steps' section of the report, which will explain to members how the report will proceed after final report production.
 - 2. Dixon thinks they should direct the legislature to realize the significance of the property tax base and that there should be more information in the report regarding this topic.
 - 3. Frick commended Dr. Walzer and noted the report is well-structured, well written, and comprehensive. He recommended the inclusion of a one to two page overview summary of the report due to its lengthy nature. Regarding the unfunded mandates, he said there is great data, but it would be beneficial to see that seven data sections as an aggregate.
 - a. Costin responded that the diversity of local governments makes it difficult to combine the data, and Dr. Walzer stated they would work on that for the final report, if possible.

4. Ruscitti inquired about the potential for Task Force members to be involved in the public and community messaging component of the information dissemination.
 - a. Lt. Governor noted that many of the members have actively spread the word and been instrumental in educating their communities.
 5. She also asked about the process for determining the Lt. Governor's count of governments as they apply to her, and Dixon mentioned an error in the draft. Ruscitti said that the report should have increased clarity to make it as accessible as possible in order to keep the focus on the tremendous work behind the research and recommendations.
 6. Colgan agreed and responded that that section does not need to be included in the final report.
 7. Holmes mentioned the far reaching span of the report can make it difficult to decide when to stop peeling back the layers and analyzing information that might be outside of the realm of the Task Force.
- iv. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti stated her staff will make the final tweaks to the report and prepare it for a vote at the special meeting on Thursday, December 17. It will then be dressed and prepared for publication and distributed to Task Force members. She applauded the success of the Task Force and her intentions to not allow the report to remain on the shelf once it is completed. She affirmed that her office will focus on future legislation based on Task Force proposals in order to make changes to improve local government for the people of Illinois. She then thanked all members for their hard work and dedication on this Task Force.

VI. Public Comment

- a. No public comment was brought forth.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti announced that the next Task Force meeting will take place on Thursday, December 17th at noon in the Lt. Governor's Office at the Thompson Center with a supplemental location via video conference in the capitol office in Springfield.
- b. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti sought a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Bigger moved the motion to approve. Darch seconded.
 - ii. The motion was approved with majority ayes with no nays recorded.